

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-10 OMB-01 /100 W

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R 251525Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY LISBON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1105

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY CONAKRY

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMCONSUL LUANDA

AMCONSUL OPORTO

AMCONSUL PONTA DELGADA

UNCLAS LISBON 5170

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PO, TP

SUBJ: NEGOTIATIONS ON SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

REF: LISBON 5085 (NOTAL)

SUMMARY: GOP DELEGATION NOW IN ALGIERS NEGOTIATING WITH SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE LIBERATION MOVEMENT (MLSTP). LISBON PRESS SPECULATES THAT INDEPENDENCE ACCORD IMMINENT, BUT ACKNOWLEDGES QUESTION OF REFERENDUM MAY BE MAJOR STUMBLING BLOCK. END SUMMARY.

1. MINISTER FOR INTERTERRITORIAL COORDINATION ALMEIDA SANTOS HEADS GOP DELEGATION WHICH LEFT FOR ALGIERS NOV. 23 TO NEGOTIATE FINAL ACCORD ON INDEPENDENCE FOR SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE WITH MLSTP. BEFORE LEAVING FOR ALIGERS ALMEIDA SANOTS EXPRESSED HOPE FOR EARLY SETTLEMENT, BASED ON SOME FORM OF POPULAR CONSULTATION. SANTOS SAID THAT WHILE MLSTP IS SOLE LIBERATION
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MOVEMENT INVOLVED, THIS DOES NOT AUTOMATICALLY MEAN IT ENJOYS

MAJORITY SUPPORT FOR PEOPLE. AN ADVANTAGE TO BE GAINED BY MLSTP FROM POPULAR VOTE WOULD BE CONFIRMATION OF POPULAR SUPPORT AND ITS OWN LEGITIMIZATION.

2. NOV. 25 LISBON MORNING PRESS SPEULATES THAT INDEPENDENCE AGREEMENT IS IMMINENT, FINAL DOCUMENT POSSIBLY BEING SIGNED DURING COURSE OF DAY. HOWEVER, "DIARIO DE NOTICIAS" CORRESPONDENT NOTES ONE MAJOR DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO DELEGATIONS REMAINS TO BE RESOLVED: QUESTION OF POPULAR CONSULTATION. MSLTP OPPOSES VOTE, CONTENDING THAT IN GOP-MLSTP AGREEMENT OF OCT. 3 (REFTEL) GOP RECOGNIZED MLSTP AS SOLE AND LEGITIMATE REPRESENTATIVE OF PEOPLE OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE. IT THEREFORE UNNECESSARY AND ILLOGICAL FOR GOP NOW TO ASK PEOPLE IF THEY WISH TO BE GOVERNED BY MLSTP.

3. DIARO ARTICLE NOTES IMPORTANCE OF PRECEDENT. MLSTP IS POINTING TO GOP-PAIGC PRECEDENT, IN WHICH PAIGC WAS RECOGNIZED AS RIGHTFUL PARTY TO FORM GOVERNMENT OF GUINEA-BISSAU WITHOUT HOLDING/REFERENDUM. ALMEIDA SANTOS NOTED THAT PORTUGAL HAS MORE THAN JUST ONE TERRITORY TO DECOLONIZE AND THAT, ASIDE FROM "LEGITIMIZING" MLSTP THROUGH HOLDING OF POPULAR VOTE, ONLY WAY TO UPHOLD PRINCIPLE THAT PEOPLE OF DECOLONIZED TERRITORY SHOULD BE CONSULTED IS BY CONSULTING THEM, THROUGH ELECTORAL PROCESS.
SCOTT

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